

establishing characteristic product quality values to be satisfied by the product, consideration being given to regulations and guidelines arising from the characteristic sales values;

defining at least two components configured for inclusion which are to be included in the product are defined for the product;

checking each component to determine whether the established characteristic product quality values are achieved by the characteristic component quality values determined for each component; and

if the result of the check is negative, each component is modified and the check procedure is repeated, with the modified characteristic component quality values being used as the characteristic component quality values.

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristic product quality values are determined from the modified characteristic component quality values using an evaluation, the evaluation including at least one of empirical estimating, mathematical models and simulation.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the current characteristic product quality values are determined by direct measuring and/or testing on the product.

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the components are hardware components and/or software components.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characteristic quality variables of manufacturers of the components are considered in the definition of the components.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein performance capability, commercial situation and/or quality of manufactured products are assessed to establish the characteristic quality variables of a manufacturer.

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the assessment is performed using a questionnaire, which includes information on the established characteristic product quality values.

[Please cancel claim 8]

9. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the manufacturer surrenders to a commissioning agent documentation on the determined characteristic component quality values and/or characteristic product quality values and allows the documentation to be passed on to third parties.

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the manufacturer of the component names at least one contact who will be available during the determination of characteristic product quality values and, at least provide support for the determination of the characteristic product quality values in subsequent testing and modification of the component.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein during the definition of the components and/or when establishing the possible manufacturers there is consideration that there are at least two manufacturers who can manufacture the respective component.

12. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product includes components which have been manufactured by at least two manufacturers, and a manufacturer responsible for meeting the established characteristic product quality values is established.

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determined characteristic quality values are confirmed by an accredited test laboratory.

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein contractual agreement is made with the manufacturers of the respective component that the established characteristic product quality values will be met and/or characteristic component quality values which arise for the respective component from the characteristic product quality values will be met.

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if it is determined that the individual components satisfy the established characteristic product quality values and that the components do not influence one another, the characteristic product quality values are not determined by direct measurement and/or testing.
16. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristic sales values take into consideration the target market, intended sales countries and/or possible customers.
17. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a component, includes a number of subcomponents.
18. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when establishing the characteristic quality values, characteristic values for CE marking, for UL approval, for NEBS approval, country-specific standards, on the permissible fire load and on electromagnetic compatibility, and/or special customer requirements for characteristic quality values are taken into consideration.
19. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristic product quality values determined and/or arising for the product from the characteristic component quality values are archived and/or certificates showing that the characteristic product quality values are met are produced.
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**In the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached hereto.